

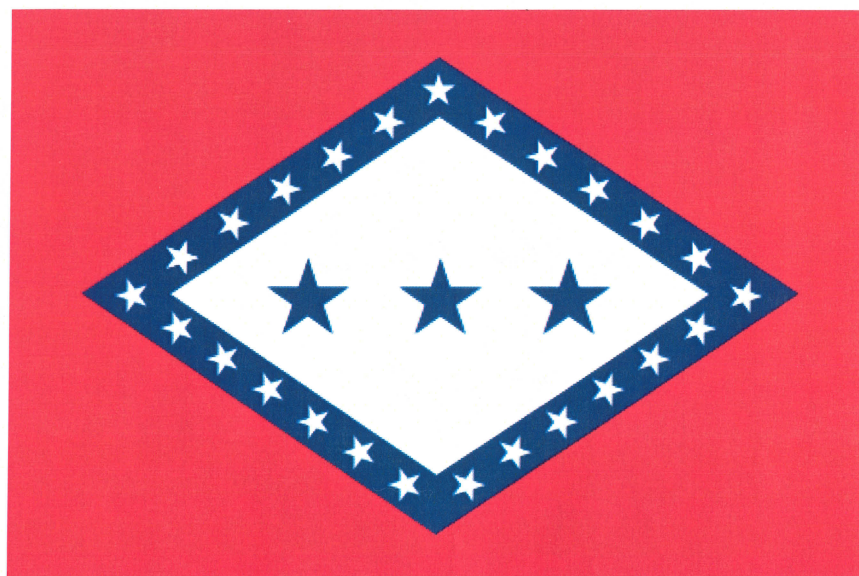


Interim Report

**Arkansas Legislative Task Force
on the
Assessment and Improvement
of
Arkansas History Education in Public Schools**

**Submitted
to the
House Interim Committee on Education
and the
Senate Interim Committee on Education**

June 1, 2010



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ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools

Senator Mary Anne Salmon
Senate Co-Chair

Representative Rick Saunders
House Co-Chair

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education

FROM: Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Co-Chair
Representative Rick Saunders, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools

SUBJECT: Interim Report of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools

DATE: June 1, 2010

Pursuant to the provisions of Act 1462 of 2009, we are submitting the Interim Report of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools for your review. Although still in the investigative phase of our work, the Task Force is working diligently towards completion of the responsibilities assigned to it by Act 1462. These include:

- (1) Assess the status of Arkansas history education in public schools;
- (2) Compile information on the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes;
- (3) Investigate ways state agencies, museums, libraries, professional groups, and other interested parties can contribute to Arkansas history education;
- (4) Review Arkansas history preparation programs for elementary and secondary teachers;
- (5) Identify means for recognizing outstanding teachers of Arkansas history;
- (6) Investigate ways Arkansas history can be used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas; and
- (7) Develop a set of written recommendations for the General Assembly that will improve the Arkansas history curriculum taught in public schools.

The Task Force has divided itself into two (2) subcommittees, the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee and the Education System Subcommittee, to facilitate its work. The Subcommittees were created on the basis of the Task Force's statutory mandates.

We hope you will find this information useful. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us or the staff person assigned to the Task Force, Mr. Mark Hudson, if you have any questions or need additional information. Mark's telephone number is 501-537-9173.

History is who we are and why we are the way we are. ~ David McCullough

Interim Report
Arkansas Legislative Task Force
on the
Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools

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*Article from the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture

**Members of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force
on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education
in Public Schools**

- (1) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;
Ms. Taniesa Moore, Public School Program Advisor, Curriculum, Assessment and Research, Arkansas Department of Education, Little Rock, AR (Commissioner's Designee)
- (2) One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Co-Chair
- (3) One (1) member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
Representative Rick Saunders, Co-Chair
- (4) Two (2) members at large appointed by the Governor;
Dr. Harry Readnour, Conway, AR
Ms. Mary McJunkins, Mineral Springs, AR
- (5) Two (2) parents of children enrolled in the public school system appointed by the Governor;
Ms. Kara Oosterhous, Glenwood, AR
Ms. Memorie Dickson, Monticello, AR
- (6) Two (2) school administrators selected by the Arkansas Association of School Administrators;
Dr. Tony Prothro, Superintendent, Benton School District
Dr. Greg Murry, Superintendent, Conway School District
- (7) Two (2) teachers of Arkansas history selected by the Arkansas Council for Social Studies;
Ms. Jan Loyd, Cabot, AR
Mrs. Leigh Sullivan, Paragould, AR
- (8) Two (2) members appointed by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Educational Television Network;
Mr. Tony Brooks, Deputy Director and COO, AETN
Ms. Kathleen Branton, Director of Governmental Relations, AETN
- (9) Two (2) members appointed by the Arkansas State Historian;
Ms. Jane Hooker, Archival Manager, Arkansas History Commission
Ms. Peggy Lloyd, Archival Manager, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives
Arkansas History Commission*

*Replaced Mrs. Deranda Granade, retired history teacher, Arkadelphia, AR, who resigned from the Task Force in May 2010

- (10) Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Arkansas History Education Coalition;
Mr. Tom Dillard, President, Arkansas History Education Coalition
Dr. Tom DeBlack, Vice President, Arkansas History Education Coalition
- (11) Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Arkansas Historical Association;
Mr. Lloyd Clark, Powhatan, AR
Dr. Blake Wintory, Director, Lakeport Plantation Museum, Lake Village, AR
- (12) Two (2) members appointed by the Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage; and
Dr. Trey Berry, Deputy Director for Museums, Department of Arkansas Heritage, Little Rock, AR
Ms. Starr Mitchell, Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, AR
- (13) Two (2) members appointed by the Director of the Department of Parks and Tourism.
Mr. Jay Miller, Administrator of Program Services, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
Mr. Ben Swadley, Director, Plantation Agriculture Museum, Scott, AR

Charge to the Task Force

The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools was established pursuant to Act 1462 of 2009. The General Assembly sought to address specific issues concerning the teaching of Arkansas history, engaging all concerned stakeholders as full and valued partners in the process. The Task Force was explicitly charged with:

- Assessing the status of Arkansas history education in public schools;
- Compiling information on the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes;
- Investigating ways state agencies, museums, libraries, professional groups, and other interested parties can contribute to Arkansas history education;
- Reviewing Arkansas history preparation programs for elementary and secondary teachers;
- Identifying means for recognizing outstanding teachers of Arkansas history;
- Investigating ways Arkansas history can be used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas; and
- Developing a set of written recommendations for the General Assembly that will improve the Arkansas history curriculum taught in public schools.

Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee

MEMBERS

- **Chair:** Starr Mitchell
- Trey Berry
- Tony Brooks
- Jane Hooker
- Jay Miller
- Kara Oosterhous
- Tony Prothro
- Ben Swadley
- Blake Wintory

CHARGE

The Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools was appointed to focus wholly or in part on the following areas:

- Compilation of information concerning the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes
- Investigation of ways state agencies, museums, libraries, professional groups, and other interested parties can contribute to Arkansas history education
- Investigation of ways Arkansas history can be used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas

Education System Subcommittee

MEMBERS

● **Chair:** Tom Dillard

- Kathleen Branton
- Lloyd Clark
- Tom DeBlack
- Memorie Dickson
- Jan Loyd
- Peggy Lloyd
- Mary McJunkins
- Taniesa Moore
- Greg Murry
- Harry Readnour
- Leigh Sullivan

CHARGE

The Education System Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools was appointed to focus wholly or in part on the following areas:

- Assessing the status of Arkansas history education in public schools;
- Compilation of information on the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes
- Reviewing Arkansas history preparation programs for elementary and secondary teachers
- Identifying the means for recognizing outstanding teachers of Arkansas history
- Investigation of the ways Arkansas history can be used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas

Presentations to the Task Force

Presenter/Organization	Topics
<p style="text-align: right;">November 24, 2009</p> <p>Senator Mary Anne Salmon Task Force Co-Chair</p> <p>Representative Rick Saunders Task Force Co-Chair</p>	<p>Background of Act 1462 of 2009 Discussion of Organizational Issues Suggestions to the Task Force</p> <p>Background of Act 1462 of 2009 Discussion of Organizational Issues Suggestions to the Task Force</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">January 25, 2010</p> <p>No Scheduled Presenters</p>	<p>Accountability--communicating with school districts to make them aware of Act 787 of 1997;</p> <p>Coursework--making certain that teachers understand what they're teaching; social studies standards; uniformity of teaching methods; and</p> <p>Resources--communicating with teachers about resources that are available.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">April 20, 2010</p> <p>Ms. Starr Mitchell, Chair Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee</p> <p>Mr. Tom Dillard, Chair Education System Subcommittee</p> <p>Ms. Heather Larkin, President and CEO Arkansas Community Foundation</p>	<p>Report on the Meeting of the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee</p> <p>Report on the Meeting of the Education System Subcommittee</p> <p>Arkansas Community Foundation and the Bridge Fund</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">May 25, 2010</p> <p>Mr. Tony Brooks, Deputy Executive Director and COO, AETN Ms. Kathleen Branton, Director of Government Relations, AETN Ms. Chris Caram, Director of Education, AETN Ms. Colleen Flory, Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator, AETN Ms. Carole Adornetto, Director of Production, AETN</p>	<p>Discussion of Services and Resources regarding Arkansas history available through the Arkansas Educational Television Network</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">May 25, 2010 continued</p> <p>Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner Arkansas Department of Education</p> <p>Ms. Susan Gray, Assessment Program Manager Arkansas Department of Education</p>	<p>Discussion of assessment and monitoring issues regarding the teaching of Arkansas history in public schools</p>

Presentations to the Subcommittees

Presenter/Organization	Topics
April 20, 2010 Ms. Kay Bland Butler Center for Arkansas Studies Central Arkansas Library System Dr. Jack Bennett, CEO Archeological Assessments, Incorporated	 Presentation to the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee concerning the Arkansas history resources and services available through the Butler Center Presentation to the Education System Subcommittee concerning the comprehensive set of textbooks and instructional materials known as the Arkansas Studies Curriculum

Appendix A

Act 1462 of 2009

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 1462 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
87th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

SENATE BILL 452

By: Senators Salmon, Madison, Elliott, Teague
By: Representatives Saunders, Ragland, House

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK
FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF
ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK
FORCE ON THE STATUS OF ARKANSAS HISTORY
EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE - DO NO CODIFY.

(a) There is created the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Arkansas
History Education.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

(2) One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro
Tempore of the Senate;

(3) One (1) member of the House of Representatives appointed by
the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(4) Two (2) members at large appointed by the Governor;

(5) Two (2) parents of children enrolled in the public school
system appointed by the Governor;

(6) Two (2) school administrators selected by the Arkansas



1 Association of School Administrators;

2 (7) Two (2) teachers of Arkansas history selected by the
3 Arkansas Council for the Social Studies;

4 (8) Two (2) members appointed by the Executive Director of the
5 Arkansas Educational Television Network;

6 (9) Two (2) members appointed by the Arkansas State Historian;

7 (10) Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Arkansas
8 History Education Coalition;

9 (11) Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Arkansas
10 Historical Association;

11 (12) Two (2) members appointed by the Director of the Department
12 of Arkansas Heritage; and

13 (13) Two (2) members appointed by the Director of the Department
14 of Parks and Tourism.

15 (c)(1) The member of the House of Representatives and the member of
16 the Senate appointed to the task force under subsection (b) of this section
17 shall serve as cochair of the task force.

18 (2) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one (1)
19 time every three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the
20 cochair or by petition by a majority of the members.

21 (3) The task force may solicit, accept, and expend gifts and
22 grants.

23 (d) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled
24 by the same process as the original appointment.

25 (e) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for conducting
26 business.

27 (f) Legislative members of the task force shall be entitled to receive
28 reimbursement for expenses and per diem at the same rate and from the same
29 source as provided by law for members of the General Assembly attending
30 meetings of interim committees.

31 (g) A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
32 quorum for transacting any business of the task force.

33 (h) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the task
34 force.

35 (i) The task force shall be abolished on June 1, 2011.
36

1 SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE - DO NOT CODIFY.

2 (a) The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Arkansas History Education
3 shall:

4 (1) Assess the status of Arkansas history education in public
5 schools;

6 (2) Compile information on the need for and availability of
7 instructional materials for Arkansas history classes;

8 (3) Investigate ways state agencies, museums, libraries,
9 professional groups, and other interested parties can contribute to Arkansas
10 history education;

11 (4) Review Arkansas history preparation programs for elementary
12 and secondary teachers;

13 (5) Identify means for recognizing outstanding teachers of
14 Arkansas history;

15 (6) Investigate ways Arkansas history can be used to reinforce
16 instruction in other subject areas; and

17 (7) Develop a set of written recommendations for the General
18 Assembly that will improve the Arkansas history curriculum taught in public
19 schools.

20 (b) The taskforce shall submit two (2) reports to the House Committee
21 on Education and the Senate Committee on Education consisting of a:

22 (1) Status report not later than June 1, 2010; and

23 (2) Final report not later than May 1, 2011.

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25 **APPROVED: 4/10/2009**
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Appendix B

Minutes of November 24, 2009 Meeting

MINUTES

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
ON THE
ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION

11:00 A.M.

Tuesday, November 24, 2009
Room 151, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Mary Anne Salmon, the Senate Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the first meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN

ATTENDANCE: Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Senate Co-Chair; and Representative Rick Saunders, House Co-Chair.

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN

ATTENDANCE: Dr. Trey Berry; Ms. Kathleen Branton; Mr. Tony Brooks; Mr. Lloyd Clark; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Ms. Memorie Dickson; Mr. Tom Dillard; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Jan Loyd; Ms. Mary McJunkins; Mr. Jay Miller; Ms. Starr Mitchell; Dr. Greg Murry; Ms. Kara Oosterhous; Dr. Tony Prothro; Dr. Harry Readnour; Mrs. Leigh Sullivan; Mr. Ben Swadley; Dr. Ellen Treadway for Ms. Taniesa Moore; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

Remarks by the Co-Chairs

Senator Salmon and Representative Rick Saunders, the House Co-Chair of the Task Force, welcomed the members to the first meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force members were recognized and introduced themselves to their colleagues:

Dr. Blake Wintory, Director, Lakeport Plantation Museum, Lake Village, AR, Chicot County, representing the Arkansas Historical Association.

Mr. Ben Swadley, Superintendent, Plantation Agriculture Museum, Scott, AR, representing the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.

Dr. Harry Readnour, Retired history professor, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, serving as one of the two (2) members at large appointed by the Governor.

Dr. Tony Prothro, Superintendent, Benton School District, Benton, AR, representing the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators.

Ms. Kara Oosterhous, Glenwood, AR, serving as one of the two (2) parents of children enrolled in the public schools appointed by the Governor.

Dr. Greg Murry, Superintendent, Conway School District, Conway, AR, representing the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators.

Dr. Ellen Treadway, Deputy Associate Director/ELL Assessment Specialist, Arkansas Department of Education, sitting in for **Ms. Taniesa Moore**, Public School Program Advisor, Curriculum, Assessment and Research, Arkansas Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education's designee.

Mrs. Leigh Sullivan, Arkansas history teacher, Greene County Tech High School, Paragould, AR, representing the Arkansas Council for Social Studies.

- Ms. Starr Mitchell**, Education Director, Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, AR, representing the Department of Arkansas Heritage.
- Mr. Jay Miller**, Administrator of Program Services, Chief of Interpretation and Education, Arkansas State Parks System, representing the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.
- Ms. Mary McJunkins**, Mineral Springs, AR, Howard County, serving as one of the two (2) members at large appointed by the Governor.
- Ms. Jan Loyd**, Arkansas history teacher, Cabot Junior High School South, Cabot, AR, representing the Arkansas Council for Social Studies.
- Ms. Jane Hooker**, Archival Manager, Arkansas History Commission, serving as one of the two (2) members at large appointed by the State Historian.
- Mr. Tom Dillard**, President, Arkansas History Education Coalition, and Head of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas, representing the Arkansas History Education Coalition.
- Ms. Memorie Dickson**, Monticello, AR, serving as one of the two (2) parents of children enrolled in the public schools appointed by the Governor.
- Dr. Tom DeBlack**, Vice President, Arkansas History Education Coalition, and Interim Dean, College of Arts and Humanities, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, AR, representing the Arkansas History Education Coalition.
- Mr. Lloyd Clark**, Arkansas history teacher, Powhatan, AR, representing the Arkansas Historical Association.
- Mr. Tony Brooks**, Deputy Director and COO, Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN), Conway, AR, representing AETN.
- Ms. Kathleen Branton**, Senior Director of Education and Governmental Relations, AETN, Conway, AR, representing AETN.
- Dr. Trey Berry**, Deputy Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage, Little Rock, AR, representing the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Following a summation by Senator Salmon of the provisions of the legislation that created the Task Force, Act 1462 of 2009, there was a general discussion about the issues to be reviewed. These included:

- o Reimbursement of travel-related expenses for members of the Task Force
- o Embedding Arkansas history throughout the curriculum
- o Providing “meaningful” in-service training to practitioners
- o Assessing instructional materials, other history related resources, and instructional methodologies
- o Establishing a central "clearing house" for Arkansas history materials
- o Recognition programs for excellence in Arkansas history instruction
- o Exploring funding sources for history-related activities
- o Need for a plan to inform target audiences about the recommendations to be developed by the Task Force

Senator Salmon thanked the Task Force members for their attendance. Senator Salmon announced that the next meeting of the Task Force will be at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2010, in Room 151 of the State Capitol.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Appendix C

Minutes of January 25, 2010 Meeting

MINUTES

**ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND
IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION**

1:30 P.M.

**Monday, January 25, 2010
Room 151, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Representative Rick Saunders, the House Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION
IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Senate Co-Chair; and Representative Rick Saunders, House Co-Chair.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY
EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Trey Berry; Ms. Kathleen Branton; Mr. Tony Brooks; Mr. Lloyd Clark; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Mr. Tom Dillard; Mrs. Deranda Granade; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Jan Loyd; Ms. Mary McJunkins; Ms. Starr Mitchell; Ms. Taniesa Moore; Dr. Greg Murry; Ms. Kara Oosterhous; Dr. Harry Readnour; Mrs. Leigh Sullivan; Mr. Ben Swadley; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

Without objection, the minutes of November 24, 2009, were approved as written.

Representative Rick Saunders made a preliminary statement that he and Senator Mary Anne Salmon were in agreement that Act 1462 was important legislation for them to carry during the Regular Session, but by no means did they have their minds made up about what ought to happen with the Task Force. He described the Task Force as a stand-alone entity in carrying out its responsibilities, with the co-chairs offering guidance through the process. He said that, ultimately, the Task Force will make a final report to both the House and Senate Education Committees, and it will be up to those committees to carry out the recommendations. Since the committees, heretofore, have not involved themselves with structural issues of the curriculum, the recommendations made by the Task Force are very important.

Discussion of the Operational Aspects of the Task Force

Representative Saunders asked the Task Force to review several handouts prior to having a general discussion.

Mr. Tom Dillard, President, Arkansas History Education Coalition, was recognized, and discussed the handout, "Some Possible Objectives for the Task Force." He said that the Coalition believes the Task Force should:

- 1) be familiar with the provisions of Act 787 of 1997;
- 2) determine if the provisions are being implemented;
- 3) define "units" at the elementary level;
- 4) address the term, "substantive and meaningful in-service training";
- 5) investigate and make recommendations on testing for comprehension;
- 6) investigate availability of instructional materials in Arkansas history; and
- 7) consider the use of Arkansas history as a venue for reinforcing other educational objectives.

Representative Saunders thanked Mr. Dillard for his remarks.

Ms. Taniesa Moore, Public School Program Advisor, Curriculum, Assessment and Research, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. In response to questions from Representative Saunders, Ms. Moore answered that

- the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) currently has social studies standards;
- there currently isn't any funding for social studies testing;
- the ADE considers a school district to have satisfied the accountability factor in Act 787 of 1997 when each school district submits assurance that it is teaching the framework during accreditation, when each school district verifies that it is teaching the framework during monitoring by the standards department, and when each school district verifies that teachers have received two hours of professional development; and
- school improvement plans contain provisions for literacy, math, and science, but not for social studies standards.

Representative Saunders thanked Ms. Moore for the information.

A general discussion of issues concerning the teaching of Arkansas history ensued. Topics raised included

- the significant number of schools not abiding by Act 787 of 1997;
- inconsistencies in accountability;
- teachers not using Arkansas history to implement the units provision of Act 787 of 1997;
- the online professional development system and monitoring for compliance;
- lack of teacher training in Arkansas history;
- correlating courses and using Arkansas history as a mechanism for reinforcing other educational objectives;
- variances in teaching Arkansas history: junior high vs. high school, as an elective vs. a required course;
- efforts that need to be made by the ADE regarding verification of compliance by schools for the implementation of Act 787 of 1997;
- the need for Arkansas history to be a relevant part of the K-12 curriculum;
- educational service cooperatives and staff development;
- what it means to be "approved" by the ADE regarding professional development training;

- "significant learning expectations" for world history that bumps out Arkansas history;
- defining what a "unit" is; and the content that should be taught within a unit; integrated or stand-alone; and
- facts about Arkansas history on the Benchmark as it relates to what is being tested are not necessarily appropriate; closing the disparity gap on what's on the Benchmark for literacy as opposed to what's being taught.

The consensus among Task Force members was that the ADE needed to address the following issues:

- 1) Accountability--communicating with school districts to make them aware of Act 787 of 1997;
- 2) Coursework--making certain that teachers understand what they're teaching; social studies standards; uniformity of teaching methods; and
- 3) Resources--communicating with teachers about resources that are available.

Mr. Lloyd Clark, Arkansas history teacher, Powhatan, AR, was recognized. He responded to a question raised by Senator Salmon about whether teachers in districts with successful programs ever have the opportunity to talk to teachers in other districts that are still formulating programs. He said a good place for teacher interaction is the Arkansas Conference on Teaching that takes place each fall in Little Rock. It runs a full offering of all the disciplines and many good social studies programs, including Arkansas history, each year. The problem is, however, that many schools won't let teachers off to attend or won't allow teachers credit for in-service hours because of being out of school while at the conference.

Preliminary Discussion of the Resources Available to Educators for Teaching Arkansas History

Mr. Mark Hudson, Senior Legislative Analyst, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized to discuss a tentative structure for the Task Force. Mr. Hudson said the purpose of the structure was to focus the work of the Task Force toward a common objective.

Representative Saunders suggested that the Task Force organize into the outline presented by Mr. Hudson and break up into subcommittees: Subcommittee A, Arkansas History Resources, and Subcommittee B, Education System. Without objection, Representative Saunders appointed chairs for the subcommittees

Subcommittee A - Ms. Starr Mitchell
Subcommittee B - Mr. Tom Dillard

Representative Saunders directed the Task Force to pose questions to ask the ADE and educational service cooperatives; and asked if there were others the Task Force would like to have at a future meeting.

Mr. Dillard was recognized and requested that the Task Force invite Mr. Jack Bennett from Nashville, AR to come and talk about his efforts to produce a thorough curriculum with the necessary teaching materials at the K-5 grade level. Mr. Dillard also recommended inviting

Ms. Heather Larkin, Director, and Ms. Cecilia Patterson, Administrator, of the Bridge Fund at the Arkansas Community Foundation, in Little Rock. He said the Fund's mission is to help improve Arkansas history education and improve library services in the state; and its administrators are aware of some of the problems that are systemic with this effort.

Senator Salmon thanked the members for their attendance.

Representative Saunders announced that the next meeting of the Task Force will be scheduled for April in Room 171 of the State Capitol.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Appendix D

Minutes of April 20, 2010 Meeting

MINUTES

**ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF
ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION**

**1:30 P.M.
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Room 171, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Senator Mary Anne Salmon, the Senate Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE
ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN**

ATTENDANCE: Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Senate Co-Chair.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN**

ATTENDANCE: Ms. Kathleen Branton; Mr. Tony Brooks; Mr. Lloyd Clark; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Mr. Tom Dillard; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Jan Loyd; Mr. Jay Miller; Ms. Starr Mitchell; Ms. Taniesa Moore; Dr. Greg Murry; Ms. Kara Oosterhous; Dr. Harry Readnour; Mrs. Leigh Sullivan; Mr. Ben Swadley; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

Without objection, the minutes of January 25, 2010, were approved as written.

Report from the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee

Ms. Starr Mitchell, Chair, Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee, was recognized. Ms. Mitchell advised the members of the Task Force that the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee met at 10:00 a.m. in Room 138 of the State Capitol. She stated that the Subcommittee reviewed those portions of Act 1462 of 2009 pertaining to the Subcommittee's task and held preliminary discussions on how to address its statutory obligations. The first topic to be discussed was the statutory mandate to investigate ways state agencies, museums, libraries, professional groups, and other interested parties can contribute to Arkansas history education. Ms. Mitchell reported that the Subcommittee made a preliminary list of the entities that could be helpful in addressing this issue. Included in this listing were:

- 193 state agencies
- 44 museums that comprise the Arkansas Museums Association, which includes national park museums, state park museums, museums of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, museums at colleges and universities, regional museums, county, city, and privately-owned museums
- 52 state parks, of which 44 have interpretive programming, 23 are historic sites, and 11 include museums
- Arkansas Historical Association and the 118 county historical and genealogical societies
- 45 colleges and universities
- the Arkansas History Commission
- the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
- the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville's special collections
- 213 public libraries
- National Register properties
- the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's four (4) nature centers

- Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) has 58 videos related to Arkansas studies and 8 professional development courses fashioned out of some of their other videos
- 136 chambers of commerce
- 122 professional education organizations
- Arkansas Humanities Council
- Arkansas Living History Association, the Early Arkansas Reenactors Association, History Helpers, and the Arkansas Country Dance Society

Ms. Mitchell stated that the second statutory mandate discussed by the Subcommittee was the requirement to compile information on the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes. She noted that there is no Arkansas history textbook for the elementary grades. According to Ms. Mitchell, the educators on the Subcommittee advised them that a list of resources that teachers can use to develop lesson plans would be beneficial.

Ms. Kay Bland from the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies met with the Subcommittee to demonstrate their educator-friendly Web site, which contains 104 lesson plans and links to other Arkansas history resources.

Ms. Mitchell stated that the Subcommittee planned to survey teachers and hold focus groups to help assess their needs, as well as meet with resource holders to help them determine how to make the resources in their care more accessible.

Senator Salmon thanked Ms. Mitchell for her report.

Report from the Education System Subcommittee

Mr. Tom Dillard, the Chair of the Education System Subcommittee, was recognized. Mr. Dillard stated that the Education System Subcommittee met at 10:00 a.m. in Room 149 of the State Capitol. He noted that the Subcommittee reviewed in detail the provisions of Act 787 of 1997. Act 787, which is codified as Arkansas Code Annotated §6-16-124, §6-17-418, and §6-17-703, requires that, beginning with the 1997-98 school year, a unit of Arkansas history must be taught at every elementary grade level and at least one semester at either the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. It further provided that beginning July 1, 2000, persons must have three hours of college credit in Arkansas history to be certified as a social studies teacher or elementary teacher and that, no later than July 1, 1997, the director of the Department of Education must distribute course content guidelines statewide. Among the issues discussed by the Subcommittee was the definition of the term “unit” for use in the elementary grades. The establishment of in-service training for new teachers was noted as a positive element in the historical implementation of the Act.

Mr. Dillard reported that the Subcommittee also reviewed the overall status of the state’s social studies curriculum. They found several areas of concern, including the lack of assessment of social studies courses in the state’s K-12 testing program, the elimination of geography as a discrete course from the curriculum, and the secrecy and lack of inclusion in the state’s standards-setting process.

Mr. Dillard stated that the Subcommittee heard a presentation by Dr. Jack Bennett from Nashville, Arkansas, who is the proprietor of a company that developed a deep, deep interest in Arkansas history education and put together a comprehensive set of textbooks and instructional materials known as the Arkansas Studies Curriculum. Dr. Bennett discussed with the Subcommittee the difficulties faced in trying to get this whole package of materials into the schools of the state. Mr. Dillard stated that Dr. Bennett’s difficulties were emblematic of a systemic problem with the Department of Education as it relates to the teaching of Arkansas history. He expressed his hope that this problem was being mitigated and that an enhanced relationship with the ADE would be established.

Mr. Dillard went on to summarize the issues discussed by the Education System Subcommittee :

- ⇒ No testing means no emphasis on Arkansas history
- ⇒ Need for vigorous accountability by both schools and the ADE
- ⇒ Need for definition of the term “unit” at the elementary level and a sequential approach to teaching Arkansas history at this level
- ⇒ Need for meaningful professional development as it relates to Arkansas history and the implementation of the appropriate administrative rules to ensure this occurs

Dr. Greg Murry, the Superintendent of the Conway School District, was recognized. Dr. Murry discussed the points he had raised during the Subcommittee’s morning meeting regarding the accountability system presently in place, and the testing that teachers and students prepare for every summer. Dr. Murry noted that there is an increasing amount of pressure being placed on classroom teachers as it relates to the preparation for standardized tests. As it relates to the specifics of Arkansas history, he said that he absolutely understood the point of accountability and the point of the necessity for measuring what actually happens in the classroom; because if it’s not measured, it may or may not be taught. He said that testing is the result of a federal mandate, at which level, social studies is not addressed. Until social studies is addressed at the federal level, he stated his belief that it would not be an issue at the state level. Dr. Murry said there are two reasons why he would not stand in favor of a test for Arkansas history: 1) additional pressure placed on teachers that also transfers to students, and 2) lack of available state or ADE resources for standardized testing. Dr. Murry said there’s not a way to guarantee a guaranteed curriculum for students in Arkansas history. He said that other ways have to be found for such a curriculum, and testing is not the right way.

In the discussion session that followed Dr. Murry’s comments, topics raised included:

- ❖ A definition for the term, End-of-Course (EOC) test, as it differs from other testing
- ❖ Relative costs of EOC tests vs. Benchmark testing
- ❖ Knowledge of any court cases that have defined the kind of rigor that has to go into the development of EOC tests
- ❖ An EOC test for Arkansas history developed as a good work by educators and others in Arkansas
- ❖ Changes made in the 2009 General Session related to student performance on the EOC exam, student remediation, and credits for graduation
- ❖ The EOC tests and grade-inflated schools
- ❖ Contracting outside of the state of Arkansas for EOC tests and grading
- ❖ “Quizzing” instead of “testing” to measure learning
- ❖ When and at what grade level to teach Arkansas history
- ❖ Correlating Arkansas history into the curriculum; availability of K-5 materials

Senator Salmon thanked Dr. Murry for his remarks. She thanked Mr. Dillard for his Subcommittee meeting report.

Discussion of the Arkansas Community Foundation’s Bridge Fund

Ms. Heather Larkin, President and CEO, Arkansas Community Foundation, was recognized. Ms. Larkin thanked the Task Force for the opportunity to discuss the Arkansas Community Foundation’s Bridge Fund with them. Ms. Larkin discussed the connection between the work of the Arkansas Community Foundation and that of the Task Force, and how a collaboration with the Task Force could help work in Arkansas history education move forward.

Ms. Larkin explained that the Arkansas Community Foundation was formed in 1976 as a charitable entity. It works in all 75 counties in the state. It has about \$130 million in assets. She noted that the

Foundation gave away a little over \$8 million in grants throughout the state in 2009, and has given away nearly \$75 million since its inception. The Foundation is the largest grant-maker in Arkansas. Its Board of Directors is composed of 17 members who come from every congressional district in the state. There are 27 local offices around the state, and local boards and citizens provide information on their communities and ways to improve Arkansas.

Ms. Larkin said that the Arkansas Community Foundation does three things: engage people, connect resources, and inspire solutions. The Foundation believes in Arkansas and knows the value of Arkansas history. It believes that the teaching of Arkansas history, in any and all forms, tells a distinctive story, and creates pride, a strong sense of place, and a stronger sense of community. The Foundation believes the teaching of Arkansas history creates better and more engaged citizens; and that is what it's going to take to move Arkansas forward. Ms. Larkin continued that there are many priorities in education today; and, as part of the Foundation, believes strongly that Arkansas history has a place in the state's education system. She believes that the work of this Task Force has the potential to have a huge impact on creating a better Arkansas.

Ms. Larkin explained that in 1993 the Arkansas Community Foundation engaged with an anonymous donor, whose passion was Arkansas history, to establish a fund, the Bridge Fund, at the Arkansas Community Foundation. Its purpose was to serve as a bridge from our past to our future by promoting Arkansas history, helping Arkansans understand who they are, and increasing knowledge through education in Arkansas history.

Ms. Larkin concluded by saying that the Arkansas Community Foundation Board of Directors and the Bridge Fund Grants Committee are extremely interested in the success of the Task Force's work. They would be most interested in a proposal to collaborate with the Task Force in finding solutions for Arkansas history education.

Senator Salmon thanked Ms. Larkin for the information.

Senator Salmon announced that the next meeting of the Task Force will be at 10:00 a.m. on May 25, 2010 at the offices of the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) in Conway, Arkansas.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Appendix E

History of Arkansas State Flag



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Official State Flag

An official Arkansas state flag did not exist prior to 1913. During the Civil War, Arkansas soldiers fought under a variety of banners and flags, but none enjoyed the state's official cachet. A military requirement, however, led to the creation of a civil flag for the state.

In 1910, the keel was laid for the U.S. Navy's newest battleship, the *Wyoming*-class USS Arkansas. Early in 1912, with the *Arkansas*'s scheduled commissioning just nine months away, the Pine Bluff (Jefferson County) chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) resolved to present a "stand of colors" (a national flag, a naval battalion ensign, and a state flag) to the new ship. The chapter contacted Arkansas secretary of state Earle W. Hodges requesting information on obtaining the state's flag. Hodges informed the chapter that in fact no state flag existed. The DAR chapter thereupon launched a statewide design contest to create one. Hodges agreed to chair a committee for selecting the winning design. Ultimately, some sixty-five designs—including crayon drawings, watercolor sketches, and even miniature silk flags—were submitted. Some design elements appeared on more than one entry. The apple blossom, Arkansas's state flower, appeared in one entry centered on a field scattered with stars representing the United States, with thirteen rays recalling the original states. On another, the flower was repeated four times within colorful blocks. Another design combined the state's outline with its great seal. One entrant memorialized territorial governor James Miller, a hero of the War of 1812, emblazoning "I'll try, sir," his famous battlefield utterance, upon a blue field. In early 1913, the committee met in Hodges's office in the new Arkansas State Capitol. After due deliberation, the committee chose a red, white, and blue design submitted by Willie Kavanaugh Hocker of Wabbaseka (Jefferson County).

Hocker's design featured a rectangular red field upon which was centered a white rhombus diamond bordered by twenty-five white stars on a blue band. Three blue stars, centered on the flag's horizontal axis on a white field within the rhombus, completed the plan. The three blue stars in the center field bore several meanings: first, that Arkansas had successively belonged to three countries—France, Spain, and the United States—before statehood; second, that 1803 was the year of the Louisiana Purchase, which included present-day Arkansas; third, that Arkansas was the third state created from the purchase. The twenty-five white stars symbolized that Arkansas was the twenty-fifth state admitted to the Union. The diamond marked Arkansas's status as the nation's only diamond-producing state.

The committee decreed that the flag ought to bear the state's name. Hocker assented and suggested that the three blue stars be rearranged, one above the name and two below. On February 26, 1913, the General Assembly adopted this design as the state's official flag. The design remained unchanged until 1923, when the General Assembly added a fourth star to the central diamond to represent Arkansas's membership in the Confederate States of America. At first, the stars were arranged with two above and two below the state's name, but the Second Extraordinary Session in 1924 placed three stars below and one above, with the three lower stars arranged as an inverted triangle. A new element of symbolism was added: the twin stars immediately below the state's name would suggest the "twin" relationship of Arkansas and Michigan, which were admitted to the Union within approximately seven months of each other, maintaining the balance between free and slave states in Congress. The Arkansas Code misstates this relationship by asserting that the states were admitted together on June 15, 1836; by the terms of an act of that date, both states were slated for

admission, and Arkansas joined the Union on that date, but Michigan was delayed until January 26, 1837.

The Arkansas state flag is today flown over thousands of governmental and private locations throughout the state. The Arkansas Code lists a handful of specifications concerning the flag, including occasions upon which it may be flown at half-staff and requiring that it be flown at every public school in the state, displayed on the same pole as the national flag. The Arkansas Secretary of State's Office offers a booklet outlining protocol appropriate for display and use of the state flag. This protocol is not considered part of the Arkansas Code as such but incorporates elements of the U.S. Flag Code and reflects common usage throughout the states.

For additional information:

"Arkansas (U.S.)." *Flags of the World*. <http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/us-ar.html> (accessed May 18, 2007).

Arkansas Secretary of State. *Protocol for the State Flag*. Little Rock: Secretary of State's Office, n.d.

Shankle, George Earlie. *State Names, Flags, Seals, Songs, Birds, Flowers, and Other Symbols: A Study Based on Historical Documents Giving the Origin and Significance of the State Names, Nicknames, Mottoes, Seals, Flags, Flowers, Birds, Songs, and Descriptive Comments on the Capitol Buildings and on Some of the Leading State Histories, with Facsimiles of the State Flags and Seals*. Rev. ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1970.

Shearer, Benjamin F., and Barbara Smith Shearer. *State Names, Seals, Flags and Symbols: A Historical Guide*. 3rd ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002.

David Ware
Arkansas Secretary of State's Office

Related Butler Center Lesson Plans:

[Flying High in Arkansas \(Grades K-4\)](#); [N is for Natural State \(Grades 3-4\)](#); [Symbols of Our State \(Grades 1-4\)](#)

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